



Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes
Superintendent of Schools

MEETING NOTICE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, December 7, 2011
Town Hall – 6:30 p.m.

Minutes

School Committee

David Reif
Gregory Berthiaume
Michael Mackin
Donna White
Colleen Shapiro

Superintendent
Loxi Jo Calmes

Recording Secretary
Mary Landi

Student Representative
Jen Markham

Guests

John Londa, Peter McCauliff, Kristan Tuttle
Todd Blake, Dave Matthew, Brian Laffond

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- * Call to Order – Dr. Reif called the meeting to order at 6:29 p.m.
 - * Executive Session - M.G.L. Chapter 39, Section 23B [3] To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government's bargaining or litigating position. At 6:29 p.m. Dr. Berthiaume moved and Ms. White seconded a motion to enter into executive session. Vote: unanimous.

Vote

Dr. Reif – yes
Dr. Berthiaume – yes
Mr. Mackin – yes
Ms. White – yes
Ms. Shapiro – yes

At 7:09 p.m. the meeting returned to public session.

- * Chairman's Report – Dr. Reif reported receiving exciting information from the MSBA. More information on that would be coming later in the meeting.
- * Review and Approve Minutes
 - November 9, 2011 Regular Session Minutes – Approved by Dr. Reif.
 - November 9, 2011 Executive Session Minutes – Approved by Dr. Reif.
 - November 16, 2011 Regular Session Minutes – Approved by Dr. Reif.
- * Review and Approve Warrants – There was one line item transfer from the special services department. Superintendent Calmes recommended approval.
- * Superintendent's Report - Advisory Committee Presentation – Mr. Mackin began the presentation. He welcomed everyone and reviewed the charge given to the Advisory Committee by the School Committee. Superintendent Calmes gave a brief history of the timeline working with the MSBA beginning in April 2007. She informed everyone that we are now working with the MSBA in the Eligibility Phase, and we will be moving forward at a relatively quick pace. Ms. Shapiro introduced all the members of the Advisory

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Committee. Mr. Mackin reviewed the process followed by the committee. Ms. Tuttle talked about the school facilities – how old the buildings are and their current state. Enrollment numbers from the past 14 years were looked at. Mr. Mackin reported that the recommendation from the Advisory Committee is to form a grades 6-12 school in the reconfiguration. Superintendent Calmes spoke about the educational opportunities that would present themselves in a 6-12 configured school. She pointed out the differences between a middle school model and a junior high model, stressing that the middle school model is the superior one. Superintendent Calmes pointed out the educational challenges associated with a combined middle/high school. Mr. McCauliff talked about the facility challenges including not knowing which school would come off-line. Mr. Matthews spoke further about considerations when determining which school would be abandoned. He continued discussing other challenges. Mr. Londa talked about the Eligibility Period, which is 270 days. He reviewed the next steps. Mr. Londa reviewed what is included in the feasibility study, which is more entailed than what we previously thought. It brings us to the point of a design we are looking at building, and we would then go back to look for the funds for construction. The process is about a year long. Mr. Mackin thanked the Advisory Committee members for their work on this report.

* Student Report

- Ms. Markham reported on the annual academic rally recently held at the high school.
- The football team won against St. Bernard's.

* Public Comment

- Ms. Mary Foyle, President of the Lunenburg Educational Association, addressed the committee; she was joined at the podium by the LEA executive committee. Ms. Foyle read a letter addressed to the School Committee members and the superintendent. The letter, which was signed by approximately 90 percent of the LEA members, articulated the association's vote of no confidence in the School Committee and superintendent.
- Selectman David Matthews addressed committee and everyone in attendance. He stated that he understands everyone's frustration around the difficult financial situation we are in. He also expressed his confidence in the School Committee and the work they are trying to do.
- Ms. Milree Keeling said she couldn't hear the presentation well. She thanked the committee for all their hard work and the jobs they are doing.
- Dr. Reif indicated the School Committee would be releasing a press statement in the morning in response to the letter from the LEA.

* New Business

Discussion

- a. FY13 Proposed Budget – Athletics – Mr. McCauliff reviewed the proposed athletic budget for FY13. Fees will remain the same. Revenue from sign-up fees is up but gate receipts are down because a parent pass is included with the sign-up fee. Mr. McCauliff stated he is looking to bring tennis back for next year. We could save about \$2,500 in transportation costs by having matches at home. Mr. McCauliff also gave a wrap-up of the fall season by giving a brief synopsis of how each team finished up their year. He also recognized Jen Markham as a cross-country star. Mr. McCauliff thanked Woods at Westminster for the free practice and free golf time they very generously donate to the high school golf team. Overall, all the fall teams did well. The ineligible list was the smallest it has ever been. Mr. McCauliff also expressed his thanks to LHS nurse Carolyn Finch and Dr. Ralph Spader for his donation of his time and talents working with the athletic teams at the high school. Mr. McCauliff talked about the concussion policy and how it affects the students. To date this year we have had ten diagnosed concussions - three of which were serious enough to keep the students out for an extended period of time. There was further discussion around the concussion policy/issues.

Action

- a. Donations – Superintendent Calmes recommended acceptance of the following donations:

- \$257.98 from Target to THMS;
- \$1,500 from Miles for Myles;
- \$750 from Verizon to THMS – This was a matching grant; and
- \$1,331 worth of jazz band equipment to LHS.

Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to accept the donations with gratitude. Vote: unanimous.

- b. Discard Excess Materials – Librarian Victoria Whipple has submitted a request to discard 212 materials/books due to their age/condition and/or out-of-date information. Superintendent Calmes recommended approval of the request. Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to accept the superintendent's recommendation. Vote: unanimous.

* Old Business

Action

- a. Third Reading – Revised/new policies Concussion & Naming Facilities

Concussion: Superintendent Calmes reminded everyone that the new concussion policy follows state law; she recommended approval of the new policy. Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to waive the third reading and approve the policy as written. Vote: unanimous.

Naming Facilities: Superintendent Calmes gave a brief overview of the new policy and recommended approval. Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to waive the third reading and accept the policy as written. Vote: unanimous.

* Public Comment

- Superintendent Calmes reminded everyone that the bus bid opening will take place on December 15.
- The school committee agreed to hold its next meeting on December 14 instead of December 21.
- Selectman Dave Matthews reminded everyone that a presentation on school funding will be given during the Board of Selectmen meeting on December 20.

* Reports

- a. Advisory Committee - Reconfiguration
- b. Finance Committee
- c. School Councils
- d. PTO
- e. Policy Sub-Committee
- f. Capital Planning Committee – Ms. Shapiro reported that the Capital Planning Committee would be touring the schools on December 8.
- g. Health Advisory Committee
- h. PAC/SAL
- i. Regional Planning Committee
- j. Rep. Benson's Advisory
- l. Other

* Continuing Projects/Estimated Date of Completion

* Items for Future Discussion

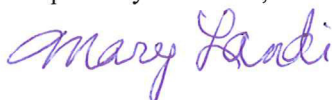
- Workshop Sessions
- Facilities Use Procedure
- Civic Engagement

- * Executive Session - M.G.L. Chapter 39, Section 23B [3] To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government's bargaining or litigating position. None.

- * Adjournment – At 8:30 Dr. Berthiaume moved and Mr. Mackin seconded a motion to adjourn regular session. Vote: unanimous.

APPROVED

Respectfully Submitted,



Mary Landi
Recording Secretary

Lunenburg School Committee

Date: 1/4/12

C/5/28/10/mel